

7-7-1954

54/07/07 Gerber Demands Speed In Bay Murder Probe

Cleveland News

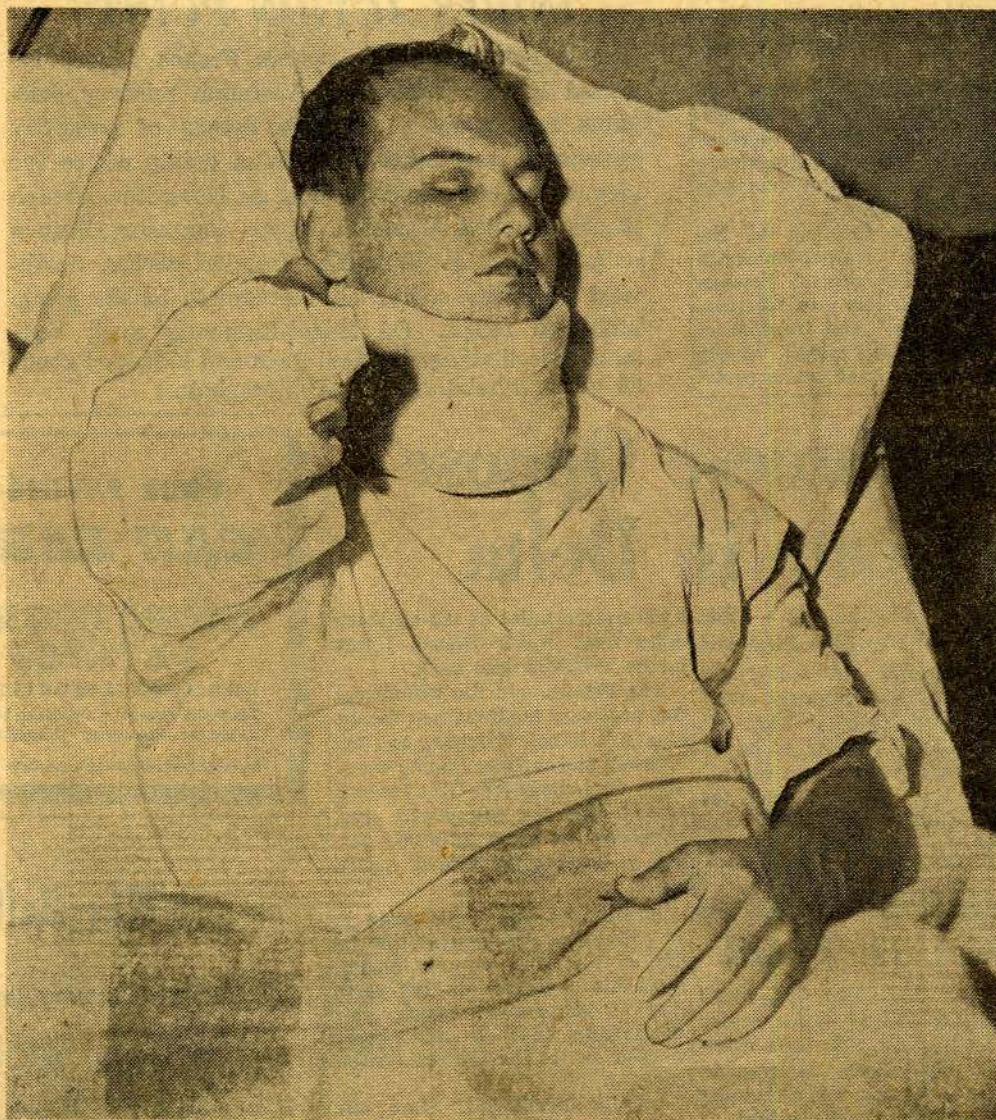
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Gerber Demands Speed In Bay Murder Probe



Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, wearing an orthopedic collar, posed for this picture today.

Has Questions For Doctor

BY HOWARD BEAUFAIT

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber today served notice on relatives of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard that he would tolerate no further delay in the investigation of the murder of the doctor's wife.

The coroner met with the father and brother of the injured osteopathic surgeon, Dr. Richard A. Sheppard and Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, and their attorney, Arthur E. Petersilge.

The session took place in Bay Village City Hall as preparations were being made to bury the battered body of Mrs. Marilyn R. Sheppard in Knollwood Cemetery this afternoon.

The attorney and relatives promised to co-operate with investigators as soon as the funeral was over and to make Dr. Samuel available for questioning.

Coroner Gerber pointed out to Petersilge and his clients that state law gave him broad powers of subpoena and inquest in murder cases and that he intended to use them if voluntary co-operation proved unsatisfactory to him.

"We wouldn't like you to do that," the attorney was heard to exclaim.

"I would not like to have to do it," Dr. Gerber replied.

Cites Necessity of Quiz

The coroner said it was necessary to question Dr. Samuel Sheppard, husband of the slain woman, who is a patient in the Sheppard's Bay View Hospital.

Attorneys Petersilge and William J. Corrigan and Dr. Stephen Sheppard, personal physician for his brother, have held an interrogation of "Dr. Sam" for the past three days because of emotional shock and injuries he said were inflicted by his wife's killer.

Dr. Gerber said that as soon as Dr. Sheppard is well enough he will be asked to return to his rambling, blood-splattered lakefront home and re-enact the scene of violence he said he encountered early Sunday morning.

Allow Photographers In

Newspaper photographers were permitted to take pictures of Dr. Sheppard in his hospital bed this morning, but were forbidden to interview him. His jaw was swollen. His neck is encased in an orthopedic collar.

"You can say hello if you want to, but no interview," said Dr. Richard N. Sheppard.

Dr. Samuel had difficulty in turning his head to pose for the pictures, and explained he had to use his hand to move his head.

Dr. Gerber and Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach, heading the murder investigation, said that immediate questioning of Dr. Sam was now necessary to get answers to puzzling aspects of the bizarre crime.

Unanswered Questions Listed

Questions unanswered include:

What happened to the white T-shirt Dr. Sheppard was wearing Saturday night when his wife was beaten to death with a blunt instrument in the bedroom of their home at 28924 West Lake Rd., Bay Village?

Why was Dr. Sheppard's wrist watch water soaked and stopped

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Coroner Demands Speedup of Probe

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at 4:15? The crime was reported to police at 5:55 a. m. Sunday.

Why were doors to a screened-in porch open when police arrived, when according to guests in the home they had been bolted the night before?

Did the killer stop to unbolt these door in his rapid flight and run toward the lake when the front door and West Lake Rd., were his obvious and most successfull paths of escape?

Why was Mrs. Sheppard's wrist-watch, worn apparently when she was murdered in an upstairs bedroom, found on the floor downstairs?

Parrino At Meeting

Assistant County Prosecutor Thomas Parrino attended the meeting of Dr. Gerber, Deputy Rossbach and the Sheppard family.

Dr. Sheppard planned to attend his wife's funeral, but the final decision rested with the hospital. He is suffering from a chip fracture of the cervical vertebra at the base of his neck, a bruised face, broken teeth and a concussion of the spinal cord.

Specialists said a lumbar puncture of the spine was necessary to relieve pressure which had been built up by the spinal and neck injury.

Deputy Rossbach said that he would seek to question Dr. Sheppard immediately after the funeral. The deputy said he would also talk with the osteopath's 7-year-old son, "Chip."

The boy, according to his father, slept through the noisy and furious murder of his mother. His room was a few feet away and his door open.

Tells of Awakening

Dr. Sheppard said that he was aroused from his nap on the downstairs couch by his wife's screams. He said he ran upstairs to be met at the top by a man wearing a white shirt who was six feet three inches tall and had dark bushy hair and was of "average age."

Dr. Gerber said that laboratory tests indicated that stains on trousers worn by Dr. Sheppard Saturday night were blood, but the type had not been determined.

The murder weapon, believed to be a metal bar with square, blunt edges, has not been found.

Police Chief John P. Eaton turned over to the coroner for laboratory examination two pairs of gloves found under the steps leading to the Sheppard's lake-front boathouse. The gloves are pigskin and white canvas, and one of them is red stained.

Dr. Gerber said two minute pieces of inorganic material found on the floor at the foot of the murdered woman's bed would probably be of no value to the investigation.

One fragment appears to be a flake of toe-nail polish, apparently from one of the toes of the dead woman. The other piece of material, Dr. Gerber said, apparently is leatherette, but its source is unknown.